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### WHAT ARE LAY PUBLIC'S FRONTAL DENTOFACIAL AESTHETIC PREFERENCES? A SYSTEMATIC REVIEW

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**Aim:** The objective of this review is to evaluate the magnitude of aesthetic impairment that the general public is able to discern.

**Methods:** A systematic computerized search of electronic databases was undertaken in Medline, Pubmed, EMBase, Cochrane Library and Web of Science until April of 2009. Abstracts of the retrieved results were scrutinized by two independent reviewers and papers that investigated variables that impact anterior dental aesthetics from the layperson's perspective were identified, selected, and assigned methodological scores.

**Results:** A total of 36 articles met the inclusion criteria. Layperson preferences and sensitivities were determined for tooth shape, tooth wear, midline deviation, incisogingival display, smile arc, buccal corridor, incisor angulation, incisor-to-lateral step, overbite, diastema, tooth size, and tooth proportion.

**Conclusions:** Some of the conclusions are that laypersons do not discriminate tooth shapes when displayed on female models, but prefer square-round incisors and flat canines (when paired with round incisors) in male models. Laypersons can detect dental midline deviations of less than 3.0 mm but when intentionally made aware of midlines, prefer midlines that are coincident with each other and the facial midline. Laypersons prefer unworn dentitions, zero gingival display and minimal buccal corridors. There appears to be aesthetic range of incisogingival display that laypersons tolerate, from 2.0 mm maxillary central incisor coverage to 2.0 mm maxillary gingival display. Laypersons are able to detect variations in crown width or height among individual teeth, especially if the variation is unilateral. Further studies are required to validate conclusions that were based on limited studies.



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